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Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

99-02

ACCIDENT TYPE:	Fall Mishap
INJURY:	Compound Fracture, Right Hand and Wrist
TYPE OF WORK:	New Construction of Housing Units
EQUIPMENT:	Full Body Harness

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT:

When the mishap occurred a carpenter was installing roof joists for the second floor roof. The carpenter was standing on unstable roof joists when he unhooked his safety lanyard to reposition himself. Before he could re-attach himself the roof joists began to wobble and he lost his footing and fell approximately fifteen feet onto a concrete slab. He fell approximately nine feet onto a scaffold below, then rolled off the scaffold and fell another six feet to the slab below.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- ♦ Carpenter did not have two lanyards to insure that he could remain tied off with at least one lanyard at all times.
- ♦ Carpenter did not verify if the joists were stable footing.
- ♦ Carpenter placed himself in a hazardous situation.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

- ♦ Contractor failed to recognize and take corrective action on the shortcomings associated with the use of safety lanyard devices during this phase of work.
- ♦ Lack of adequate supervision.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- ♦ Contractors must provide additional safety lanyards and anchor points to ensure that employees are always attached to at least one anchor point at all times.
- ♦ Joists are to be stabilized before being used as a walking and working area.
- ♦ Wooden planks may be placed across joists to stabilize and increase footing area.

YOUR SAFETY CONTACT IS....